

West Hagbourne news



December 2012 ISSUE 106

2012, quite a year

The year 2012 was always going to be memorable not least because it marked the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Not wishing to miss the opportunity for a party, the Village Association put together their plans for an event on Saturday to attract as many residents as possible. By the kind invitation of Dickie and Mary Allan, villagers assembled at York Farm for a pig roast lunch and diverse entertainments. For the children there was face painting and a bouncy castle, while the adults listened to folk songs from the Commonwealth sung by the Longmynds singing group. Later, Lepton Morris side gave us some traditional dancing while Rose Hips Belly Dancing group provided a more exotic element. Volunteers persuaded to try a belly dancing routine discovered that it was harder than it looked. Malcolm Brownsword hosted an interesting audio visual show of his photos of recent village events and wildlife. The more imaginative residents competed for the best-decorated hat. In the evening, the dinner and wine tasting quiz, organised by Phil and Jo Taylor, stayed largely dry in the two marquees while the rain poured down outside.

On Sunday the marquee was in use again as many villagers joined together for a Songs of Praise. This was followed by refreshments which included a delicious 'Union Jack' cake.

These events rely on the efforts of many people. The Village Association provided the marquees, erected by an increasingly experienced team: the new tables and chairs, bought courtesy of Lottery funding, arrived in the nick of time, on Saturday morning. A host of other people worked behind the scenes to ensure the day was a success and by choosing the Saturday, the Village Association ensured we had the best weather of a largely wet weekend.

Next, in early July, the Olympic flame came to our region and we made our ways to Abingdon or Wallingford where we waited, in the rain, to take part in this once-

in-a-lifetime event. The atmosphere was exciting and provided the opportunity for us all to get involved as the torch made its way to London. If you were watching closely, you will have seen Didcot Power Station's cooling towers as one of the iconic images in the film shown at the start of the opening ceremony. Some lucky people had tickets for the Olympic or Paralympic events but others watched the road cycling or marathon from the streets of London.

Village Association

The Village Association membership includes all residents of West Hagbourne and its committee works to provide events and entertainments during each year. Having established an annual Dragon Competition to celebrate St George's Day this has now become a notable local event, attracting both media attention and many visitors to the village. This year we led the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, funded a new marquee and won a lottery grant that provided new tables and chairs for the benefit of residents' use at future events.

The AGM was held on 8th October. New members are urgently needed for the Committee. If you are interested in joining, contact Val Walton on 851 089.

Twinning visit

Mid-September saw West Hagbourne once again establishing its international credentials by welcoming friends from our twin town of Meylan, France.

Over the past 10 years many twinning visitors have got to know our lovely village and this time we hosted 7 of the total group of 17, including the mayor of Meylan. Didcot and the surrounding villages are twinned with Meylan and with Planegg, in Germany.

As well as trips to our twin towns the twinning association organises fund-raising and social events and if you think

you would like to get involved with twinning, please contact Sue Totterdell and see the website: www.didcotwinning.org.uk

Is it fast enough?

Broadband speeds, or lack of speed continue to be an issue for West Hagbourne residents. Following the disappointment of the 'Race to Infinity' not delivering fibre optic broadband all the way to the village, many villagers feel there is room for improvement. To date, relatively few households in the village have made the change. You can only benefit if you change your package with your broadband provider. The broadband provider needs to switch you over to a "Fibre to the Cabinet" (FTTC) package and have new equipment installed on your property." Currently BT is providing speed of 10 - 20 mbps to some, depending on which package you buy and where you live, but speeds still fall significantly at peak times and can fail to support such services as catch-up TV and video streaming.

Some who have switched over have found that whilst the speeds are significantly higher, they are not a fast as expected from "BT Infinity" and there can be fluctuations. This would be improved if we could persuade BT to install fibre to the cabinet at the bottom of York Road instead of just to a cabinet in Upton, but currently they have no plans to do that. South Oxfordshire County Council is conducting a survey about rural areas which are being excluded from faster services and this can be accessed on at: <https://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Select '**Demand better Broadband** (Residents)' and complete the questionnaire if you think faster broadband should be available in West Hagbourne. **ACT NOW - the survey closes on December 31st.**

Looking good

Residents are rightly proud of West Hagbourne and it is important to thank those people who make a special effort to keep it looking good.

So thanks to all those people who bring colour and perfume to their front gardens for us all to enjoy, to those who pick up rubbish while out for a walk, to those who trim the shrubs around the village signs and keep the planters blooming and watered, to the people who keep footpaths mown and clear, to anyone who works behind the scenes for the benefit of us all. In addition, we are always grateful to the volunteers who help with the litter collections organised by the Parish Council. If you are prepared to get involved, dates of future litter-picks will be advertised in this newsletter.

You may have noticed that there have been some changes to the gardens beside the bus shelter this year. As part of the movement to encourage more insects, we decided to replace the diseased rose bushes with some wild flowers. After a very dry start and then a lot of rain, they did finally flower. Hopefully next year they will be even better. Some replanting of the beds on the other side of the bus shelter is planned for 2013.

You may also have spotted that there are three new wooden tubs under the Horse Chestnut tree, paid for by the Parish Council. Over summer these were planted with gold, silver and bronze plants to mark the Olympics and they are currently planted with bulbs to provide colour in spring.

You may also have noticed that the planter by the noticeboard in York Road has gone missing. If you know anything about where this went, please get in touch with the Clerk parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

News

Changes to your newsletter

After a brief hiatus in its publication, we hope that normal Newsletter service will be restored. We have agreed to take on editing the newsletter for a trial period and we encourage contributions and feedback (ideally constructive).

If you view the newsletter at the [website](#) all the hotlinks will work, making navigation much easier.

You may not know, but for some time this newsletter has been funded entirely from the income from advertisers and we hope that this will continue to be the case so that it can be distributed free to all households.

We also hope that the Parish Council will make use of the newsletter to update residents about what they have been doing on our behalf. Merry Christmas!

Marion Judd and Sue Totterdell

Madge Trophy winner

Each year, in a different month, the best garden is judged. This year, the Trophy was won by Shirley Beechey of 5 Grove Terrace for her colourful garden that welcomes everyone to the village as they enter from Brook Lane.

Charity events

In September Macmillan Cancer Support hold their "Biggest Coffee Morning" fundraising event. This is supported by various local businesses and schools. For the past two years, a Cocktails and Canapés for Cancer relief, hosted by Sue & Dave Totterdell, has been part of the West Hagbourne fundraising effort, this year raising £360 for the charity.

If you are planning a charity fundraising event and would like to publicise it in this newsletter, please get in touch with the editors. editors@westhagbourne.org

Community plan the Tyrrell Trust

Many of you will recall the Parish Plan produced in 2006 and expired last year.

The Parish Plan document, circulated to every house, was the result of an extensive survey of the hopes and aspirations of villagers. South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) is now encouraging villages to update Parish Plans, calling them Community-led Plans (CLP).

A short questionnaire will be delivered to every house in the village and we encourage you to complete and return this so that your views are taken into account. SODC tells us that we need to have responses from almost all households if our CLP is to be taken seriously. One copy of the questionnaire will be delivered to each house, and one person can respond on behalf of all the residents there.

However, if you each want to make individual comments, please ask for an additional copy, or you can print yourself one out from the village website www.westhagbourne.org

If you want to expand on any of your answers or raise additional issues, please return these on an additional piece of paper.

An important outcome from the Parish Plan was that there are lots of ideas in the village but that we need volunteers prepared to get involved to take projects further. So, there will also be an opportunity to offer your services.

Gardening Club

On Thursday Jan 24th Malcolm Brownsword presents an audio visual show featuring a selection of gardens and stately homes, 'Scarecrow Olympics', the Dragon competition, Hagbourne Show, Blewbury NGS Open Gardens and local wildlife. Something for everyone!

Show starts 7.30 – Tea and Coffee served from 7.00. Visitors welcome.

Tel: Jenny Smith on 01235 815897 for further information

The Tyrrell Trust is a small local charity offering grants to West Hagbourne village residents, in particular to younger people need of financial help to fund musical, educational, sporting or other worthwhile initiatives involving self-development and/or community service. In the past grants have been awarded to help with fundraising for World Challenge or other charitable or educational expeditions and for national-level sporting activities. Under the terms of the Trust, grants would also be considered for any resident experiencing severe hardship.

If you are interested in applying for a grant, please contact Patsy Ryman (850 092) or Marion Judd (850 143) for more information. Grants are available for individuals or groups (up to £100 for groups). Applications should be sent to Patsy Ryman, 10 Manor Close, West Hagbourne, giving details of the project to be sponsored.

Hagbourne Charities

Since the 17th Century, Hagbourne Charities has existed to benefit the residents of the Parishes of East and West Hagbourne. Trustees are drawn from both Parishes and currently Sue Lay and Marion Judd represent our Parish. The Charity has a small income drawn from land ownership and investments. For the past few years, an annual disbursement has been made to the Didcot Volunteer Centre that arranges transport provided by a band of volunteer drivers for elderly and disabled people to access medical, hospital and other appointments.

New residents

In 2012 we welcomed new residents to **Stags Lodge, Rosland, Lime Croft, 1 Grove Terrace and the Laurels.**

Deaths in 2012

- In February, **Margaret Hedger** who is missed by many friends in the village and beyond.

- **Mary Wiley** suddenly in November. When Mary retired she decided to fulfil her dream of researching the history of West Hagbourne. Those of us who volunteered to help had no inkling that we were about to embark on a journey into the past which would take nine years. It was Mary's enthusiasm, energy and inspiration which kept us going. She herself was tireless in seeking information, writing hundreds of letters and travelling to record offices and historical archives far and wide (this was before internet and Google). Her greatest coup was coming across the missing name of one of our war dead, quite by chance, whilst on a visit to war graves in Italy. One figure, however, eluded her – the mysterious Father Anthony of Thatch Cottage whom she pursued relentlessly but to no avail. She suffered endless teasing about her obsession with this enigmatic priest. Mary's intellect and memory were formidable and she could recite the chronology of the kings and queens of England without hesitation – a great asset to have on your quiz team. Mary had a wonderful sense of fun and loved a celebration but she was no pushover. Her tact and charm served us well in some tricky situations.

As well as founder of the History Group and driving force in publishing a written history, Mary served the community of West Hagbourne in many ways. She was always helping others and was a Parish Councillor. She single-handedly planted the garden next to the war memorial/bus shelter. She was also a founding member of the East-West Hagbourne Society.

Mary wore her Christian faith lightly but lived it deeply. We were all blessed by knowing her and feel bereft at her passing.

Sheila Taylor - Village History Group

Farming in the countryside

Spring this year was extremely dry, drought conditions, I believe, were mentioned! We planted the poppies in March, as usual and wondered if the seeds were ever going to germinate. All the winter planted crops looked well with promise of a good harvest.

During those last winter months we get on with all the maintenance jobs like re staking all the young trees where broken, checking the hedgerows, coppicing and clearing up fallen trees.

We have been submitted to no end of problems with the coursers, bands of people who train and run their dogs all over the land chasing and killing the hares and deer. They have no regard for property, cutting fences, destroying crops and tormenting animals. To people, if confronted, they use threatening behaviour. They're better left for the police to deal with, which is no mean task so if you ever see them, do not approach, just immediately contact the local farmer.

We have the usual Muntjac around the farm but also the pretty little Roe Deer. A small group of these live up on the hill (not enough to be called a herd!). We were concerned about our resident kestrels as we found a dead female at the back of the house during the winter and also we had replaced the nesting box as the other was about to fall out of the tree. This spring we took great delight in watching the pair return and hatch and rear two healthy chicks. Watching them learn to fly was a great treat as once they do they fly away.

Most of the fertiliser and the fungicide was applied before the rain came. Then during May/June when the crops were flowering, the rain just rained. Harvest in July/August went on into September for many and the rain still



came. The crops that had looked so well in the spring desperately needed the sunshine to ripen them. This affected the wheat yield because the grain was shrivelled and it brought the bushel weights down (yes, still using bushels!) and the quality and morphine level in the poppy crop diminished.

Because of the shortage of wheat around the world, mainly due to adverse weather conditions, prices have kept up, which is good for those in arable but not so good for those with animals to feed because the cost of concentrate has escalated too. Fuel costs are also high raising the cost of drying. Fortunately, we have a grain store, enabling us to watch the market price and sell when we want to.

We managed to plant most of our Autumn planting, but only 40% of the country's wheat crop has been planted due to the wet conditions. Many fields look more like paddy fields! We have had 40 inches of rain so far this year when we normally average 24-26 inches!! Who said nature doesn't balance itself out!! Hopefully farmers will be able to change their cropping and plant or replant other crops in the spring. We have planted winter oil seed rape and wheat and plan to plant the poppies in the spring.

As you may have noticed, Nicky has been out with the hedge cutter, tidying up the road and field sides. We are limited to cutting certain hedgerows each year through the Entry Level Scheme.

Some of our family are living at Manor Farm with us at the moment and I am very fortunate to have Lily-Ella aged five as my little country companion.

Sue Lay

Parish Council

Clerk

Lucy Dalby 817 464
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Councillors

Mike Butler Chair 850 523
mike.butler@westhagbourne.org
Valerie Brownsword 850 668
valerie.brownsword@westhagbourne.org
Hugh Lewis 851 113
hugh.lewis@westhagbourne.org
Eve Setch 850 858
eve.setch@westhagbourne.org
Michele Thornhill 850 489
michele.thornhill@westhagbourne.org

District Councillor

Leo Docherty 01235 519028
leo.docherty@southoxon.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council
01491 823000

County Councillor

Patrick Greene 813 396
patrick.greene@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Oxfordshire County Council
01865 792422

Planning applications

You can search for any current or past planning applications, view plans, see decisions based on your post code at
<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationCriteria&TYPE=Application>

Advertising

For sale or wanted small ads are free if you live in the Parish, but all other advertising revenue pays for the production of the newsletter and the costs associated with the web site. please e-mail copy for inclusion to editors@westhagbourne.org

Copy deadline for the next newsletter is the **30th January 2013**

Meetings

Minutes of all meetings of the Parish Council are available online. If you do not have access to the internet, call the clerk and a printed copy will be delivered to you.

www.westhagbourne.org/pc_minutes.htm

Boundary Changes

The Local Government Boundary Commission has proposals for new electoral arrangements for South Oxfordshire District Council.

Under these we would be in a South Didcot Ward with Didcot and East Hagbourne, which means that our SODC councillor would cover part of a town and two villages. SODC had proposed that West and East Hagbourne be in a Brightwell Ward with a number of other villages, but that suggestion was not taken up because of "communication difficulties".

The deadline for making representations is 7 January 2013 and villagers who wish to do so can make representations at this link - <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node>

The Parish Council is yet to finalise its response but it is likely that we will be supporting the SODC proposal to keep us separate from Didcot and place us in a ward with other villages.

Our understanding is that Didcot Town Council will be supporting this proposal also. This process does not alter the parish boundary, which currently encompasses part of Great Western Park, but there will be a separate consultation on that in 2013 and the opinion of villagers will be sought.

other news

In an accident involving two cars on the A417 on Saturday 9th November, a section of the fence bordering the Tyrrell Trust land was demolished.

Despite substantial flooding in Brook Lane following the recent heavy rain at least the pond is full again.

HODSONS
the property professionals
"Not all estate agents are the same!"

THINKING OF MOVING?

Straight forward, straight talking, professional advice from your local independent Estate Agent

Successfully selling property in

Abingdon 01235 553686
Didcot 01235 511406
Wantage 01235 763611
and surrounding villages

www.hodsons.co.uk

 **Little Acorns**

Happy, family run day nursery and out of school care.

Including drop off & pick up to some local schools.

Flexible sessions – am, pm, term time, school day.

For further information, to request a brochure or to arrange a visit please contact us

01235 851423 or email
littleacorns1@btconnect.com

Scotland's Ash Garage

MOT testing from 6am
Diagnostic Fault Finding and Servicing on all types of vehicles
Air Conditioning Exhausts
Body Repairs Courtesy Cars

HUGE SAVINGS ON TYRES

01235 850 707

www.scotlandsashgarage.co.uk
Main Street, West Hagbourne OX11 0NA



house to rent in France

Noirmoutier Island, west of Nantes - sleeps 7

Just minutes from quiet family beach, great biking and sailing, two bedrooms, washing machine, dishwasher, TV

600€/week June + Sept
750€/week July

for more information and photos
contact tottedells@btinternet.com 01235 850080

For the garden of your dreams - consult a professional

MARY ANN LE MAY

• GARDEN DESIGNS •

Blissetts West Hagbourne OX11 0ND
Tel: 01235 850523 Fax: 08700 516043
www.maryanndesign.co.uk

PTS
Pladdis Technology Services

Your local Computer & Audio Visual company

IT Services

IT sales & support
Upgrades and repairs
Virus removal / cleanup
Network setup
Windows re-installation
NO FIX NO FEE!

www.computer-repair.uk.com

AV Services

AV sales & support
Flat screen TV installation
Projector installation
Home cinema installation
Sound system installation
Interactive white boards

www.audiovisual-installation.co.uk

Tel: 01235 851237 / 07855 543082
Email: sales@pladdistechnologyservices.co.uk

Bare Essentials



HOT STONE MASSAGE | SWEDISH MASSAGE | FAKE BAKE & XEN TAN TANNING
OPI PEDICURE | WAXING | JEAN MARIN FACIALS | LASH & BROW TINTING
RADIO FREQUENCY | IPL LASER HAIR REMOVAL

Call Becky 01235 851 863 | www.bare-essentials.com | info@bare-essentials.info

HFP SERIOUSLY!
Hagbourne Farm Plumbing
NO JOB TOO SMALL

£10 off each visit from HFP with this advert (Valid until 2015)

We focus on the small maintenance jobs i.e. overflows, washer changes, taps, toilets, leaks, blockages, ball valves, washing machines, burst pipes, outside taps and more

24 hour emergencies - No callout fee (9am - 4pm ex bank holidays)

T:0800 566 8263 M:07816 399 315
www.hfp-plumbing.com

CHAUCERS picture framing
by Sallie Pickering

High quality framing at realistic prices
Huge selection of frames, mounts, creative ideas and inspiration
Conservation Framing

(01491) 652984
info@chaucersframing.co.uk
10% off orders over £50 with this advert

Call for singers

If you like to sing, perhaps you would like to join Longmynds Singing group. The brainchild of Eva Pinkava, this friendly group meets every Monday at Longmynds, Foxglove Lane, to learn new songs and practice its repertoire. It helps if you read music but this is not essential. It helps if you speak Czech but this is not essential either. All voices welcome.

Do you belong to a club or society that would like to advertise its meetings and/or recruit new members? Please get in touch and we will include something in the next newsletter.
editors@westhagbourne.org

Businesses

Businesses currently based in West Hagbourne:

- Rosey Gardiner - TineTune Time
- Hagbourne Farm Plumbing - Matt Lay
- Age Content Respondz4 - Rob Baker
- Bare Essentials - Becky Lay
- Contented Childcare - Aimee Lay
- Scotland's Ash Garage - Peter Welch
- Little Acorns Nursery at Scotland's Ash
- Square Wave Systems Ltd - Hugh Lewis
- Garden designs - Mary Ann Le May
- PT S - Computer & AV - Richard Pladdy

If you run a business in West Hagbourne, and would like to tell us about what you do, please get in touch.

Hagbourne School

Headmaster Richard Jones retired at the end of the summer term after 23 years as Head. Many West Hagbourne children attended the school during this time and will have happy memories of their primary schooling under his leadership.

This autumn term, the school has continued with Mrs Annette Crewe as the newly appointed Head Teacher.

Sue Lay needs someone in the village (any age) who could help her out with her ducks, chickens and pigs when she is away or at meetings etc

Call Sue on 01235 850738.